

1967

B O R O U G H

of

M A L M E S B U R Y

BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1967

The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1967 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

I shall have completed twenty three years as your Medical Officer of Health when I retire on the 23rd. June, 1968, and it may be of interest to the Council if I make some general comment on the state of the public health within the Borough during this period.

The more serious notifiable diseases, apart from a small outbreak of poliomyelitis in 1953, have been conspicuous by their absence. The immunising schemes initiated by the Wiltshire County Council and the co-operation of the public have contributed largely to this satisfactory state of affairs. Nevertheless, Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis and Smallpox can only be kept in abeyance by continued attention to this essential prophylaxis. The future schemes for immunising children against Measles will further reduce the amount of sickness amongst the child population.

Birth rates and death rates have shown some fluctuation but it should be borne in mind that in small populations, rates per 1000 do not give an altogether correct impression. A mean taken over a ten year period to the present year shows only slight variation from that of the United Kingdom as a whole.

Two major improvements in the environment have been achieved by the construction of modern means of sewage disposal and by the co-ordination of the water supplies in the area by the North Wilts. Water Board.

"The establishment of small local district authorities does not enable a Council or its officers, however willing or conscientious, to deal with the formidable array of legislation issued by the Central Government, as they would wish". This comment was made in my annual report to the Council for the year ended 1958, and since then the situation has not eased. The following further examples of legislation pertaining to public health have been added since that date and are a further responsibility imposed on the Council and its Officers.

Public Health Act, 1961.

Housing Act, 1964

Food Hygiene(General) Regs. 1960

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehs) Regs. 1966.

Imported Food Regs. 1968

The Milk & Dairies(General) Regs '59

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehs)(Amendment) Regs, '66

Slaughterhouses(Hygiene)(Amendment) Regs. 1966

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regs. 1965

The Meat (Staining & Sterilisation) Regs. 1959.

Housing Act, 1961

Offices, Shops and

Railways Act, 1963

Meat Inspection Regs. 1963

Licensing Act, 1961

The Food (Control of Irradiation) Regs. 1967.

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regs. 1966

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regs 1966

The Food Hygiene(General) Regs. 1962

The "stop", "go" policy of various governments in recent

years has affected the Council's desire and ability to proceed with its housing programme. In consequence several properties within the Borough still require attention.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, followed by the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, made it necessary to review in detail the existing slaughtering arrangements in the Borough with a view to ensuring that the Borough Slaughterhouse complied with all the requirements of this new legislation.

Many inspections of the premises and lengthy reports to the Council have caused the owner to affect certain structural alterations and improvements, nevertheless on the 6th. December, a total of seven defects and omissions were still requiring remedy.

During the year under review, refuse disposal occasioned several complaints of fly infestation from residents near the Council's tip, and a full report was made to the Council on the 30th. June, 1967. Tipping is taking place at an alternative site outside the Borough in conjunction with the Rural District Council.


My thanks are due to the Council and its Officers for the unfailing courtesy I have always received during my long service as your Medical Officer of Health, and I leave with regret an appointment which I have found to be both interesting and stimulating.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B. Ch., D.P.H.
Municipal Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.
Tel: Chipp. 2821; extn. 48.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs
of Calne & Chippenham and the Rural Districts of
Malmesbury and Calne & Chippenham. Assistant
County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

J.R.M. Walker, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.,
Diploma R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods

Mr. Walker in addition carries out the duties of
Borough Surveyor.

(c) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The General Purposes Committee of the Council
deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

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Area in acres	227
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	2,680
Number of inhabitable dwellings (end of 1967 according to the Rate Book)	898
Number of Council dwellings at the end of 1967 ..	254
Number of applicants for council dwellings at the end of 1967	75
Rateable Value	£87,182
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	£345

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth & Death Rates as compared with
other areas.

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population) standardised*

	<u>Birth Rate</u>		<u>Death Rate</u>	
	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Malmesbury Borough	18.7	14.9	12.9	8.7
Malmesbury R.D.C.	18.9	17.9	10.1	11.7
Wiltshire	18.7	17.8	10.4	10.2
England & Wales	17.7	17.2	11.7	11.2

*Area comparability factors are supplied to each district by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

STILL BIRTHS

No still births were notified during 1967.

INFANT MORTALITY

It is gratifying to place on record that no deaths of infants under the age of one year occurred during the year under review.

DEATHS

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The following deaths were notified during 1967.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
15	12	27

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	-	2
Coronary disease, amgina	5	4	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	1	3	4
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>27</u>

More than half of the deaths occurring in the Borough during 1967 were due collectively to Cancer, Heart Disease and Coronary disease.

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Apart from twenty sporadic cases of measles, the Borough enjoyed freedom from infectious disease during the year under review

Notifiable diseases are those conditions defined in the appropriate sections of Public Health Legislation, and the number is limited.

At present, some notifiable diseases are largely of historic value and much non-notifiable disease is of a greater public health importance. Notification serves two main purposes, it is of epidemiological and statistical value to the Ministry of Health and major authorities and is of immediate importance in the control of infectious disease among the local community. Early notification is essential if control measures are to be effective.

Tuberculosis

Once again for the second year in succession, it is gratifying to say that no cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year under review.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Public Health Inspector's section of this annual report, which has been drafted during December, as from 1st. January, 1968, I take up a similar appointment with Llandovery Borough Council.

Once again I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the assistance given by Dr. Broomhead at all times on matters relating to public health.

Conditions with regard to staffing in the department have not changed since my report last year, hence the continuing lack of attention to detail on most public health work, and practically non-existent routine public health programme.

Water Supplies.

The water supply to the Borough is provided by the North Wilts. Water Board. Three samples were taken, one chemical and two for bacteriological analysis. Both quality and quantity have been satisfactory during the year.

Inhabited houses

No. December, 1967.....	865
No. with internal water supply.....	840
No. served by standpipes....	25

Sewage Disposal.

The town is sewered for the most part by old sewers which originally discharged direct to the River Avon. A ring sewer constructed in 1963 picked up all these outlets and sewage is pumped to the main works. These have continued to operate satisfactorily.

The small disposal works serving a group of aluminium bungalows owned by the Borough Council but situate in the Malmesbury Rural District, has been improved with a Momojet distributor and new filter medium replacing delapidated equipment and choked medium.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

There are no dealers or distributors of raw milk in the Borough, all supplies being delivered pre-packed from pasteurising plants in other areas. Seven samples of pasteurised milk were taken during the year, six of which were satisfactory and one unsuitable for examination on arrival at the Laboratory.

There are no liquid egg pasteurising plants in the Borough.

Housing Act, 1957.

There are still many occupied properties in the Borough fit only for action under Section 16. Progress on rehousing those in most need came to a full stop during 1967 as not one casual vacancy of a council house occurred, and no new houses constructed. A realistic policy of

programming work must be adopted, to put an end to the existing piecemeal development by the authority. An additional 100-150 houses are required if the Borough Council are to fulfill their statutory obligations on slum clearance, and unless their present policy of council house rents is radically changed the number of casual vacancies is unlikely to increase to any marked degree.

The annual building rate since the war has not managed to satisfy annual requirements, and the accumulating deficiency is such that unless the building programme is stepped up many families at present occupying unsatisfactory and demoralising accommodation will never have the opportunity of a decent home.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

There were 17 applications for grants approved during 1967.

Standard Grants.....10
Discretionary Grants..... 7

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

There are 43 shops retailing food in one form or another.

<u>Type of Shops</u>	No.	No, inspected	No. unsatisfactory	No. improved 1967.
Grocers	12	8	1	-
Butchers	5	5	1	1
Greengrocers	2	1	-	-
Cafes & Restaurants	4	3	-	-
Hotels	5	3	1	-
Public Houses	7	-	-	-
Off Licences	2	-	-	-
Bread & Cake Shops	2	2	1	1
Wet Fish Shops	1	1	-	-
Sweet Shops	2	-	-	-
Fish & Chip Shops	1	1	1	1
	<u>43</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

There are no poultry processing establishments in the district.

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

100% meat inspection has been maintained at a small private slaughterhouse during 1967. Inspection is divided between myself and a local firm of veterinary surgeons; the system has worked well and I wish to thank them for their co-operation during the year.

	<u>Beasts.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Inspected by Veterinary Surgeons.	1832	42	828	2011
Inspected by Public Health Inspector.	728	116	2372	3449
TOTAL	<u>2560</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>3200</u>	<u>5460</u>

Carcases	}	Condemned	
Parts & Offal		other than	
		T.B. or C.	
		Bovis.....	1130

% animals affected 9.93

Parts condemned for T.B..... 107

% animals affected94

Carcases affected with C. Bovis..... 5

Carcases refrigerated..... 5

The Ministry's directive on the Judgement of carcasses affected with C. Bovis and the freezing of those found to contain viable cysts only, has been followed with some reluctance. Carcasses found to have calcified or caseous cysts are jointed and inspected before being released for sale.

Gradual improvement of the premises has been maintained though there are still many items to be finalised before the slaughterhouse may be considered satisfactory.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

No inspections of premises covered by the Act were carried out during 1967.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

There is one site licensed for 12 caravans. In spite of repeated promises from the site owner to improve conditions, the Council were finally obliged to institute proceedings in May, 1967, as the site remained in a most unsatisfactory state. The owner was found guilty on all charges and fined £20 with 10 guineas advocates fee.

In November, 1967 further proceedings were taken for failure to comply in full with all site licence conditions: again the owner was found guilty, fined £40 with 10 guineas advocates fee to the Council.

Refuse collection and disposal.

Refuse is collected in most parts of the Borough twice a week, with a twice monthly salvage collection. The bi-annual collection of bulky refuse has proved to be very useful, and special arrangements are also made on request to move large amounts of refuse from households.

A new lorry, an Eagle 12 cu. yd. side loader, was purchased in September to replace the 10 year old Dennis. This was purchased in the interests of economy and has proved to have all the faults usually associated with this type

Refuse Collection and Disposal (continued)

of vehicle. It has also been found that the capacity is insufficient for our current requirements, with consequential increase in overtime working for the collectors.

At the beginning of December, it was decided to increase the number of premises receiving only one collection per week, and arrange for three whole days to be allocated for refuse collection. This will have the effect of bringing overtime working to within reasonable limits at the expense of reduced service to approximately 85 households (10% of the total in Malmesbury) and even further encroachment on time available for all other work undertaken by the outside staff.

Considerable nuisance was caused during the summer from flies breeding at a refuse tip near to the town centre. Suitable control was difficult, as it was necessary to rely on a contractor to cover the tip at the end of each day. On several occasions refuse was left uncovered for a period of more than four days. Regular spraying with insecticide had no appreciable effect. At the beginning of September this tip was closed for domestic refuse, and a tip 4 miles from the town is now used in conjunction with Malmesbury Rural District Council.

